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Mint of the United States,
Nov. 12. 1842.

Sir,

I have received a letter from the Treasurer of the Mint at New Orleans, in which he states that there is now a great desire, at that place, to introduce the employment of copper coins, and says that, if a supply could be sent from this Mint, he thinks a large amount might be exchanged for silver & gold. Such a transaction would be, on every account, desirable, and I am anxious & ready to enter upon it, but I deem it improper to do so without your consent.

The 35th Sect. of the Mint Act of 1837, states, "That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Mint to deliver the copper coins in exchange for their legal equivalent in other money, to any persons who shall apply for them." And the following section says: "That the copper coins may, at the discretion of the Director, be delivered in any of the principal cities and towns of the United States, at the cost of the Mint for transportation."

Now I would propose that kegs of cents should, from time to time, be sent from here to the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and placed in the hands of the Treasurer of that Branch for distribution.

That the Treasurer of the Branch Mint be considered as the Agent of the Treasurer of this Mint in the business, and that he have allowed to him a commission of one per cent. on the amount of copper sold. This was the commission allowed by the Treasurer of the United States to his Agent at Philadelphia, while, under the old Mint laws, the distribution of copper coins was made the duty of that Officer.

That the expenses of transporting the coins, including insurance, if deemed expedient, be paid by this Mint.

That the Treasurer of the New Orleans Branch Mint, in his capacity as agent, shall account with the Treasurer of this Mint, who will of course account with the Department for these as well as other copper coin transactions.

If the arrangement thus proposed meets your approbation, it shall be entered upon without delay.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Sam. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }